

The Bayou Pierre River Enhancement Group Meeting

Bayou Pierre River at the Natchez Trace
Looking Downstream from the Bridge



The Bayou Pierre Watershed is Valuable in Many Ways:



AGRICULTURE



FISHERIES



BIODIVERSITY

45 Years (1966-2011) of Study, Communications and Recommendations*!

- US Fish & Wildlife Service-13
- Scientific{Tulane, Southern MS} -9
- Miss Dept. Wildlife Fisheries & Parks-7
- US Dept. of Agriculture {NRCS,SCS}-5
- Miss Dept. Environmental Quality-3
- Army Corps of Engineers-3
- The Nature Conservancy-3
- Interagency{Federal, State, County and NGO's}-3
- County Commissions{Copolah, Claiborne}-3
- National Park Service -1
- **TOTAL-50+! Still not enough progress!**
- * INFORMATION FROM USFWS FILES

The Bayou Darter is a Well Studied Species!

Distribution	Raney and Suttkus 1966; Teels 1976; Suttkus and Clemmer 1977; Matthews 1978; Ross et al. 1992; Slack et al. 2004
Habitat	Ross et al. 1990, 1992
Diet	Knight and Ross 1994
Reproduction	Knight and Ross 1992; Ross and Wilkins 1993
Age and Growth	Knight and Ross 1992
Population Status/Estimate	Ross et al. 2001; Slack et al. 2004
Larval Ecology	Ross and Wilkins 1990; Slack et al. 2004
Conservation Genetics	Wood 1996; Near and Keck 2005; Slack et al. “in prep”
Systemwide Impacts	Hartfield and Ebert 1986; Patrick et al. 1991a, 1991b; Albertson and Patrick 1996; Ross et al. 2001

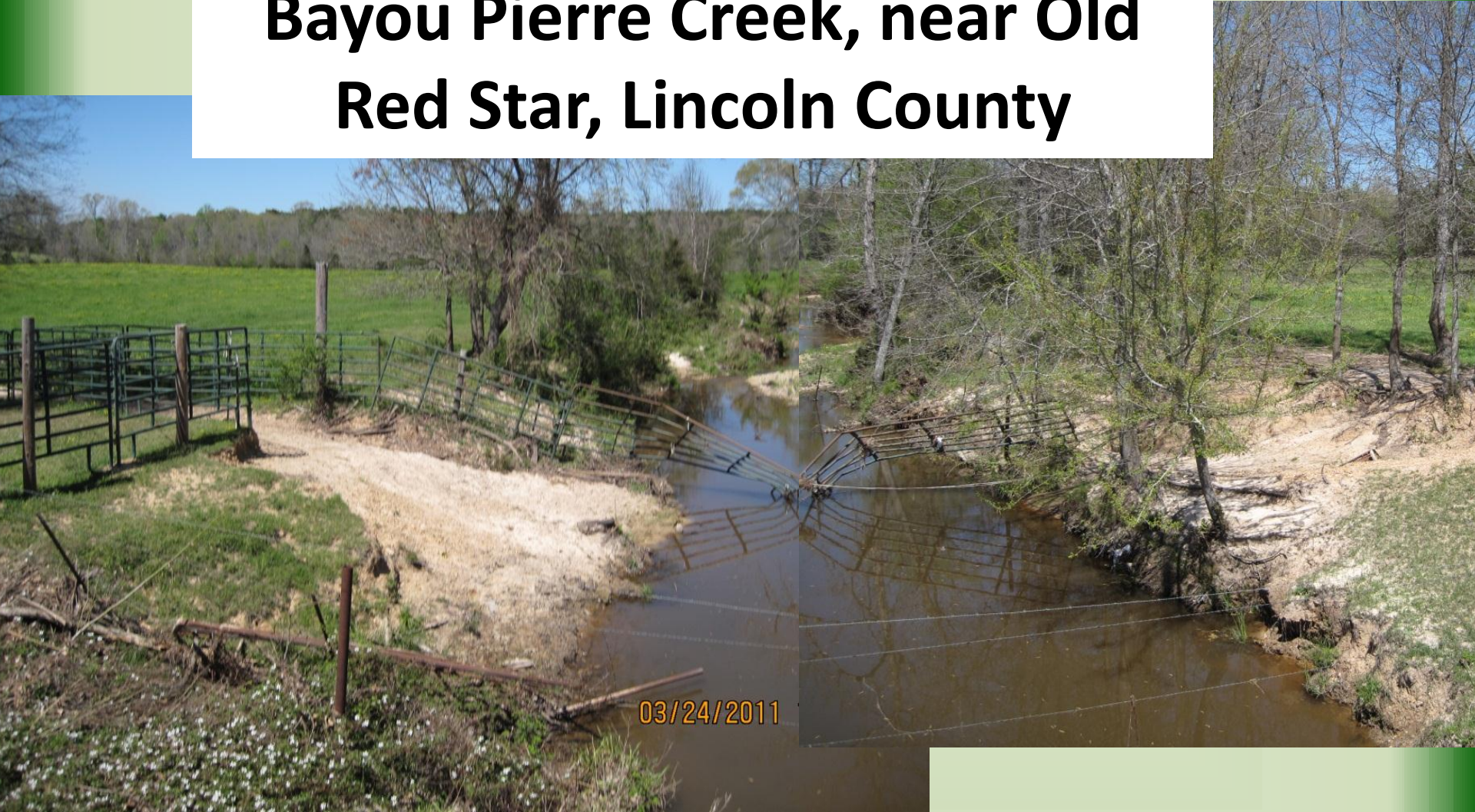


BAYOU DARTER, *Etheostoma rubrum*

**HOWEVER,
THERE ARE IMPORTANT
PROBLEMS THROUGHOUT
THE WATERSHED, AS WE
WILL SEE ON THIS BRIEF
TOUR OF THE BAYOU
PIERRE RIVER:**

From upper to lower reach

Bayou Pierre head waters with Bayou Pierre Creek, near Old Red Star, Lincoln County



**Headwaters
Bayou
Pierre at
Lot Smith
Road ,
Lincoln Co.**



**Headwaters
Bayou
Pierre at
Sylvarena
Rd.,
Copiah
County**



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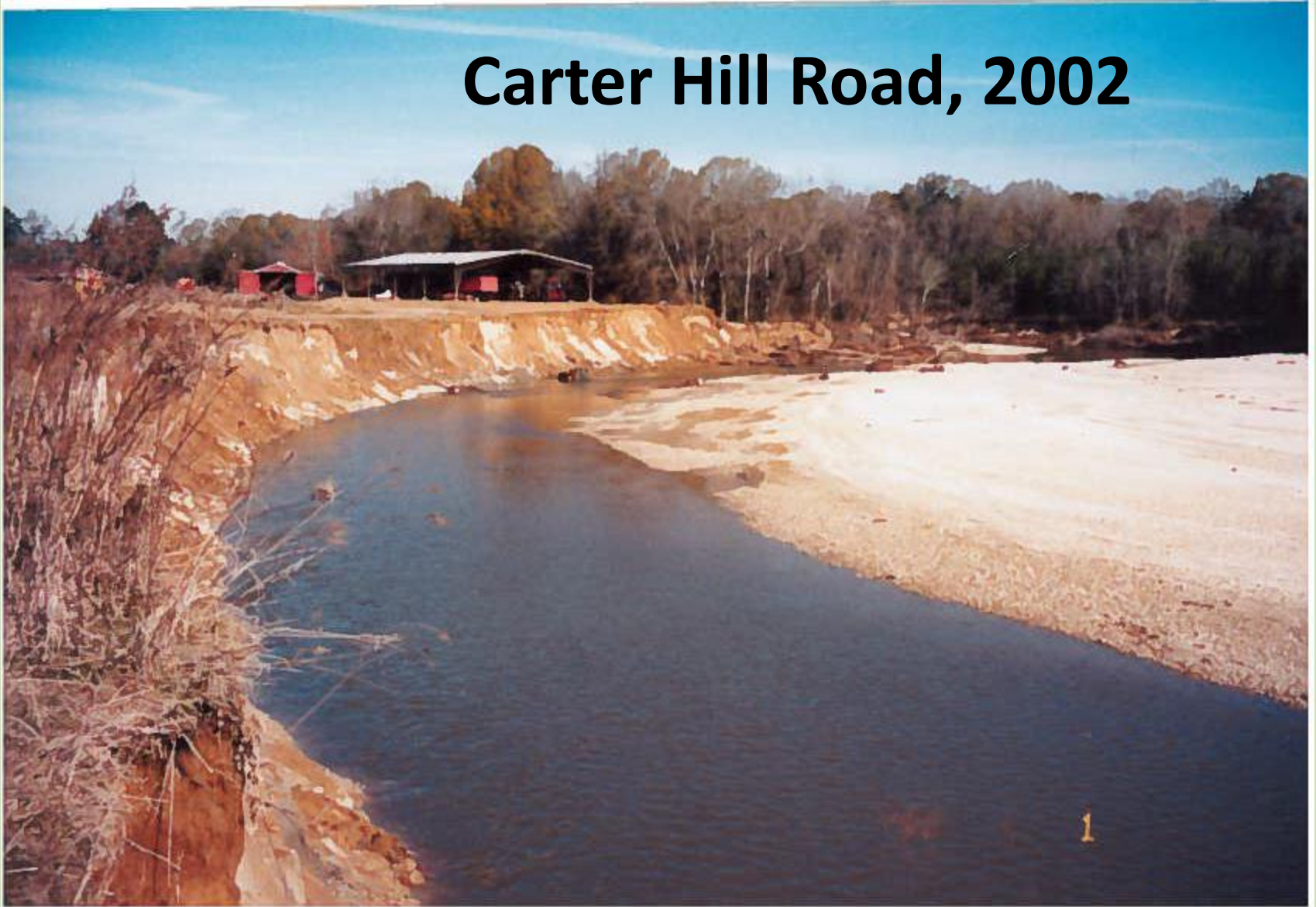
Bayou Pierre at Smyrna Bridge



**Turkey Creek at Dentville
Road Middle Reach of
Bayou Pierre**



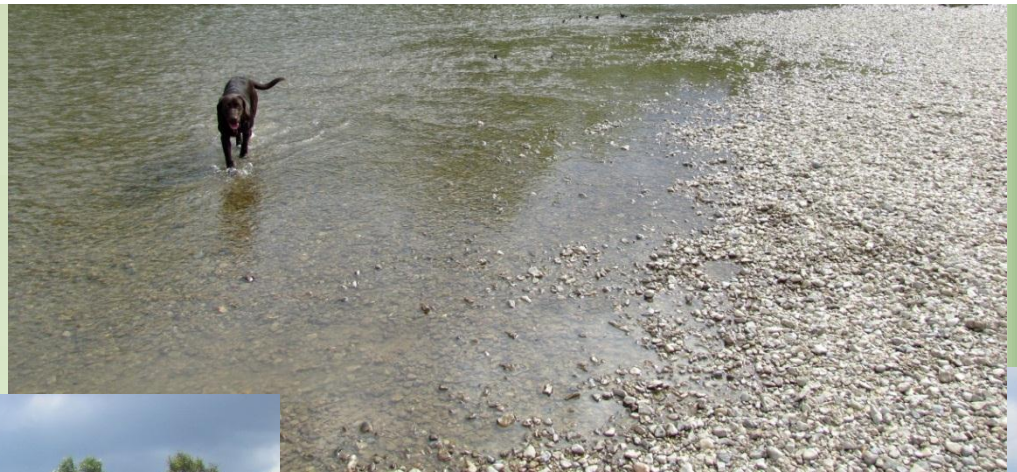
Carter Hill Road, 2002



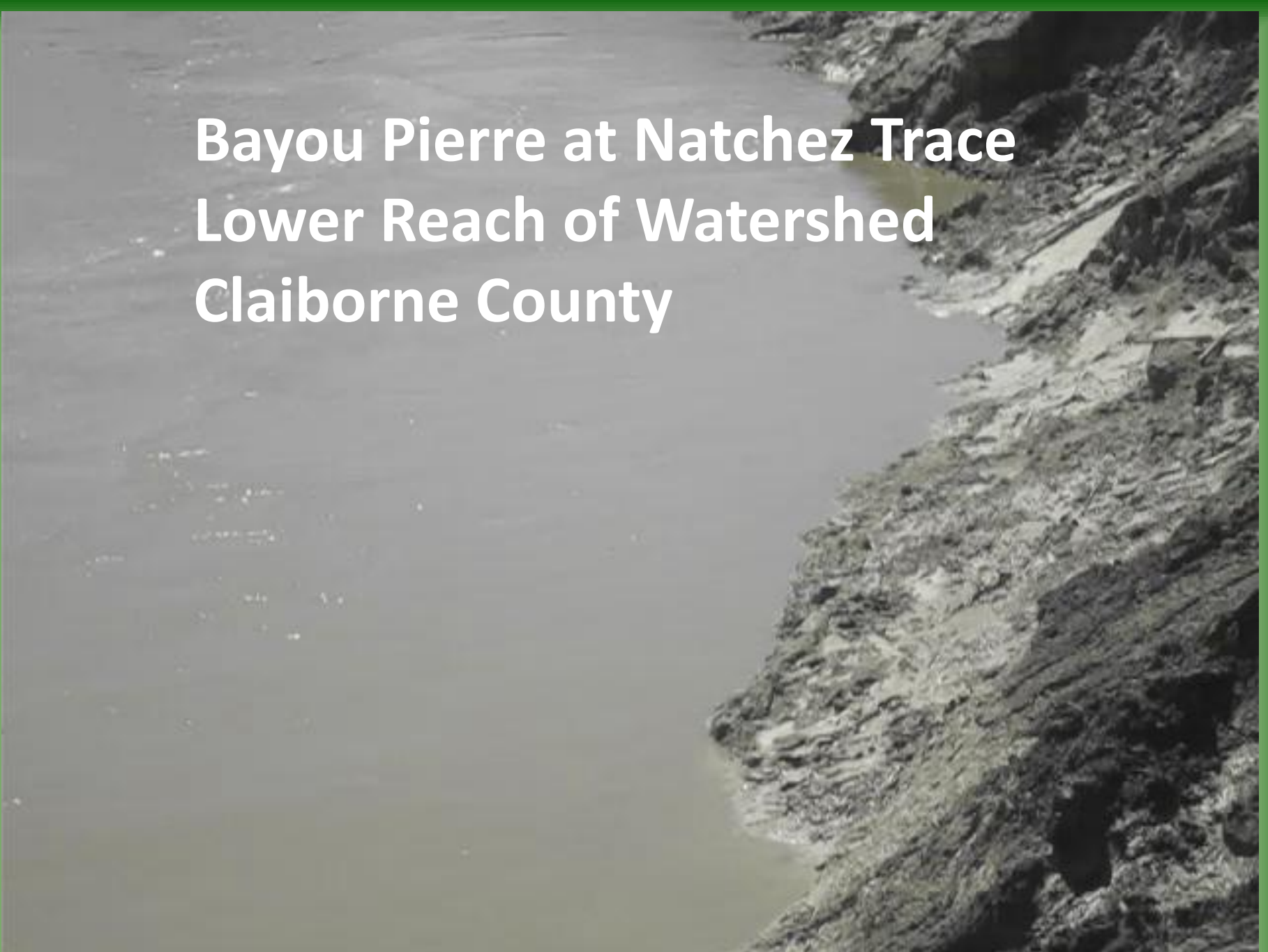
Carter Hill Road, 2011



Private Land off of Dentville Road



**Bayou Pierre at Natchez Trace
Lower Reach of Watershed
Claiborne County**



Bayou Pierre at Willows to Port Gibson and Mississippi River, Claiborne County

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BASIS OF OUR ACTION

Efforts of agencies and stakeholders working as a loose coalition over the last 45 years for the conservation and management of the Bayou Pierre River and tributaries have *not* reached their potential.

This includes:

- benefits to fish and wildlife, and agriculture
- stabilizing banksides, channels, sand and gravel bars
- increase protection of valuable farm land from eroding into the river and tributaries
- and generally providing for a healthy river system

TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES

The Mississippi Field Office (USFWS) and the NRCS has initiated:

- the formation of a Bayou Pierre River Enhancement Group that includes agencies, local and state government, NGO's, stakeholders, landowners and others
- To identify conservation projects, obtain funding, support and consensus for strategies and other actions needed for the conservation and wise use of the watershed.

SOME ACTION ITEMS NEEDED TO HELP MEET OBJECTIVES

- 1) Identification and gain support of appropriate agencies (Federal, State, County, NGO, Academia, others);
- 2) Identification and gain support of stakeholders and landowners;
- 3) Identification, funding and implementation of a model project(s);

4) Public outreach, networking and publicity of projects;

5) Long term projects to begin and insure the recovery of the watershed for the aquatic diversity, wildlife and economic processes by the landowners

6) Continuing monitoring and evaluating the river system along with the recovery of fisheries along with rare species such as the Bayou Darter by acquiring funding sources, new partners, sustaining current partners and monitoring results.

Proposed Timeline and Action

- -Summer Committee Meeting
 - Representing a part of the general body of the enhancement group
 - Planning session to identify needs and projects and funding sources
 - Propose a plan of action for specific model project or projects
- Fall General Meeting of the Enhancement Group